When Newark Was Younger—

Crowd-packed square in front of Essex County Court House on Memorial Day, 1911, during dedication by Theodore Roosevelt (below) of statue honoring Lincoln, his predecessor in White House.

Reminders of the Past

Monuments in Public Places Reflect City's Tribute to Pioneers, Events

BY MIRIAM STUDLEY

Principal New Jersey History Librarian, Newark Public Library.

Snapshot of 1910 showing Gutzon Borglum staking out courthouse site of Lincoln statue. In group were top-hatted Vice Chancellor James E. Howell and Librarian John Cotton Dana, second from left.

WHEN strangers coming to town ask what our city has to interest sightseers, we Newarkers point with pride to the fine statues in our public parks. Best loved, and to some of us, most beautiful, is the seated figure of Lincoln in front of the Essex County Court House. To the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, and to the donor, Amos Van Horn, we are grateful for this statue which is particularly inspiring in a city where people of many races and backgrounds are learning to live together in mutual trust and appreciation.

Mr. Van Horn was a Newark business man who provided in his will for a gift of three statues to Newark, one of Washington, one of Lincoln, and one as a memorial to the soldiers and sailors of this country. The Lincoln statue, dedicated on Memorial Day, 1911, by Theodore Roosevelt, then the only living ex-President, was given in memory of Lincoln Post, G. A. R., of which Mr. Van Horn was a charter member.

THE equestrian statue of Washington in Washington Park was Mr. Van Horn's second gift, the work of J. Massey Rhind. It represents Washington's farewell address to his army at Rocky Hill, near Princeton, and was dedicated November 2, 1912. It is fitting that this vigorous statue should stand where it does, for down Broad street in November, 1776, marched the armies of Washington in their alarming retreat across the Jerseys. Near the statue, a plaque erected by the Newark Schoolmen's Club shows the path of the retreat.

Mr. Van Horn's third gift, the Wars of America Monument, also was the work of the Idaho-born sculptor, Gutzon Borglum. Modeling of the monument was done by Mr. Borglum in his studio at Stamford, Conn., and the bronze casting from the original models was done in Florence, Italy. Dedicated on Memorial Day, 1926, it is unlike most war memorials in that it gives recognition to the part played in war by all the people.

AS Mr. Borglum declared, the soldiers of our nation were not only those in uniform, but also those who stayed at home and worked. So the monument shows an airplane navigator bidding good-by to his mother, the tragic face of an old father whose sons have all gone to war, another father urging his son to do his duty in the Navy. The faces of well-known people may be recognized in the monument: Amos Van Horn is seen as the Union soldier, John Purroy Mitchell, late Mayor of New York, as the navigator, and Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln, as the young sailor and his father.

Looking at the monument from the ground one does not get the full effect. An airplane view, or one from a tall building gives the picture Mr. Borglum intended, in which the massive block of granite and bronze appears as the hilt of a great sword, the blade being the lagoon which stretches south through the ancient military training ground.

MILITARY PARK is also the site of the oldest statue in Newark, the life-size bronze of Maj. Gen. Philip Kearny, who lost his life leading the First New Jersey Brigade in the Civil War. The state commissioned Henry Kirke Brown of Newburgh, N. Y., to cast the statue, and later presented it to the City of New-

(Continued on Following Page)

Columbus Monument in Washington Park.

Lincoln Park in 1895 during unveiling ceremony of the "Indian Group," the work of C. B. Ives. It was a gift to the city by Dr. Jonathan Ackerman Coles.

Monsignor Doane figure in Military Park.

Clinton Park's famous Colleoni, presented to city by Christian Feigenspan. Reproduced by J. Massey Rhind, the original was erected in Venice in 1493.

(Cont'd from Preceding Page)

ark. Gen. Grant, Gen. Sherman and Governor McClellan were present at the unveiling December 28, 1880.

Actually, the Kearny statue was not Newark's first. That honor belongs to a wooden statue now on a high piazza at the fire house in Butler. It was carved by John Campbell of Belleville, one of the best wood carvers in the country, and the maker of hundreds of cigar store Indians. In Mr. Campbell's shop also the decorations of the Barnum and Bailey circus wagons were painted. The blue-coated fireman with the fierce black mustache was placed atop the Fireman's Insurance Company building at 775 Broad street December 15, 1888.

When the Fireman's Insurance Company purchased the First National Bank Building at the Four Corners in 1882, the old fireman moved too. In May, 1909, the mid-Victorian stone building was torn down and the fireman was given to the Newark Salvage Corps. A marble statue of a fireman was placed over the entrance of the white marble home office building, when the Fireman's Insurance Company erected Newark's first skyscraper in 1910. Since the insurance company's move to Park place in 1925, the structure has been known as the Broad and Market Building.

The old wooden fireman with his shiny blue coat would have fallen into complete decay, but for the efforts of John W. Williams, 50 years a volunteer fireman in Butler. Taking part in a fireman's parade in Newark in 1910, he spied the statue in a pile of rubbish in the rear of the Salvage Corps headquarters. Before dawn the next morning George Spellman and he were on their way with a wagon to collect the figure, given him by Captain Harry Martin of the Salvage Corps.

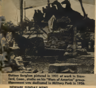
As they passed the Bloomfield fire house, the blankets in which they had wrapped the figure fell off. An attempt was made by Bloomfield volunteer firemen to seize the statue but one hand was all they got. Painstakingly repaired, the trophy has stood in Butler ever since, silvered trumpet in one hand, the other raised high to direct operations. In 1929 the Bloomfield Volunteer Fireman's Association obtained the stone statue from a Newark trucking firm. That

NEWARK'S

fireman stands on a lawn in Franklin street, near the Bloomfield Municipal Building.

POPULAR collections were the source of the money for the Seth Boyden statue in Washington Park, portraying the Newark inventor in mechanic's leather apron, a model locomotive in his hand. Although the collection of funds was begun in 1871, the amount was not completed until the Board of Trade gave its backing in 1887. The statue, erected May 13, 1890, is by Karl Gerhardt, Boston sculptor, who also designed the statue of Frederic T. Frelinghuysen in Military Park.

The citizens of Newark in 1906 gave the statue of Msgr. George Hobart Doane by William Clark Noble in the little triangle north of Trinity Church. Msgr. Doane, son of Bishop George Washington Doane of the Protestant Episcopal Church, became a priest of the Roman Catholic Church and was for nearly 50 years rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Newark. Fond of literature and the arts, and a devoted citizen, Msgr. Doane was among the early



Gutzon Borglum pictured in 1921 at work in Stamford, Conn., studio on his "Wars of America" group. Monument was dedicated in Military Park in 1926.

"Benjamin Franklin and his whistle" in the Newark Library.

Washington Memorial, was second of Amos Van Horn's gifts to the city. Created by J. Massey Rhind, it was unveiled in 1912 in Washington Park.

Franklin Murphy figure, Weequahic Park.

Unveiling of "The Hiker" by school children during 1914 Memorial Day ceremony. Gift of United Spanish-American War veterans, monument is in McKinley Park.

Gen. Kearny statue in Military Park.

STATUES

promoters of city planning, then a relatively new idea in this country. Good pavements, better sewage disposal, finer public buildings, shade trees, parks, band concerts, all had his wholehearted support. Appointed in 1903 a member of a fine arts commission by the trustees of the Newark Public Library, Mgr. Doane deserves more credit than any other man for the art exhibits and lectures which led to the founding of the Newark Museum.

It was Magr. Doane who led a group of Newark citizens to give the money for the sculpture over the entrance of the Public Library, representing "Wisdom Enlightening the Children of Men." This work of art was created by John Flanagan, born in Newark street and educated in the Christian Brothers' School at St. Patrick's. Son of a Newark stone carver, he played as a child among marble statues in the stone yard, and loved to pore over the Dore illustrations in the fine editions of Dante's "Inferno," and Cervante's "Don Quixote." Studying art at Cooper Union, and apprenticed in the studio of Augustus St. Gaudens, he later went to Italy and to Paris, where he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Mr. Flanagan's medals, which have received awards at great expositions here and abroad, are in famous museums all over the world.

Gift of another Newark citizen, Christian Feigenspan, is the Colleoni in Clinton Park, a copy of what John Ruskin called the finest equestrian statue in the world.

There is an unusual story connected with this statue. Mr. Feigenspan, Newark banker, son of the brewer of the beer known as P. O. N. (Pride of Newark), had a friend named Dick with whom he had gone prospecting and camping in the West. When his friend, desiring to prospect in South Africa, wrote asking Mr. Feigenspan to "grub-stake" him, Mr. Feigenspan did so.

Meanwhile, there had been some discussion with J. Massey Rhind, sculptor of the equestrian George Washington, about the desirability of securing a copy of the Colleoni statue for Newark. One day when Mr. Feigenspan and John Cotton Dana, librarian, were playing golf together, the discussion turned to the statue, and Mr. Feigenspan exclaimed, "Dana, I'll give that statue to Newark when Dick makes good!" Two months later, the prospector dropped into the Kinney Building to find Mr. Feigenspan. "Chris," he cried, "I've got a bundle of money! Take it away from me."

The statue, copied by Mr. Rhind, was unveiled July 26, 1916, as part of the celebration of Newark's 250th anniversary celebration.

One of the greatest parades in the city's history took place on Columbus Day, 1927, to mark the unveiling of a statue of Christopher Columbus by Giuseppe Ciochetti of Rome, gift of Newark citizens of Italian extraction. Over 10,000 people crowded Washington Park for the unveiling, while 20,000 marchers took part in a parade that included school children, several historic floats and all the Italian societies of Newark and vicinity.

The "Hiker," Spanish-American War statue in McKinley Park, the statue of the late Governor Franklin Murphy in Weequahic Park, C. B. Ives's "Indian group" and the bronze Victory Memorial to World War I in Lincoln Park complete the list of Newark's most notable statues.

"The Planting of the Standard of Democracy," Newark's memorial to its heroes of World War I, is in Lincoln Park. Charles H. Niehaus was sculptor.

Fireman's Insurance Company Building on northeast corner of Broad and Market streets in 1905, topped by famous wooden fireman now in Butler. Stone fireman (right) over entrance to "skyscraper" on same site was acquired by Bloomfield Volunteer Fireman's Association when company moved. Structure became known as the Broad and Market Building. Figurepiece now rests on lawn near Bloomfield Municipal Bldg.

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